

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY

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FOLLOWING REPEAT ROME 9406 ACTION SECSTATE INFO MOSCOW

10 SEPT

QUOTE

UNCLAS ROME 9406

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR

SUBJECT: ALLEGED DIVERSION OF US WHEAT BY THE SOVIET UNION

SECSTATE PASS AGRICULTURE

FROM AGATTACHE

REF: STATE 178753, FASTO 220

SUMMARY: SO FAR NO BASIS FOUND FOR ALLEGED RUSSIAN SALES.

END SUMMARY.

1. SAME STORIES HAVE APPEARED IN ITALIAN PRESS ALL FALLING

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SHORT OF PROVIDING EVIDENCE.

2. WE CHECKED WITH GOI (INCLUDING AIMA), WITH GRAIN TRADE AND WITH EMBASSY OF USSR. GOI SOURCES DENIED EMPHATICALLY KNOWLEDGE OF PURCHASES OF AMERICAN WHEAT BUT WHEN WE PRESSURED MINAG LATER IN DAY WITH CERTAIN FACTS, WE WERE INFORMED ITALIAN PRIVATE IMPORTERS HAD BOUGHT SUCH WHEAT BUT THAT AIMA AND GOI COULD NOT GIVE ANY INFORMATION AS TO WHO HAD SOLD OR BOUGHT SINCE THEY WANTED TO STAND ALOOF THEMSELVES FROM THESE TRANSACTIONS.

3. EMBASSY USSR INDICATED AS SOURCE FOR RUMORS RUSSIAN FLAG VESSEL WITH WHEAT FOR LIBYA WHICH HAD CALLED ON PORT OF CIVITAVECCHIA.

4. WE HAVE NO REASON YET TO BELIEVE THAT RUSSIANS SOLD US WHEAT TO ITALY.

5. REFERENCE FASTO 220:
JAGETT NETA UNDER INDIAN FLAG LOADED CORN FOR DREYFUS IN HOUSTON AND HARD WINTER WHEAT FOR BUNGE, BOTH DESTINATION ITALY.

WHEN SHIP FOUND GENOA PORT CONGESTED THEN UNLOADED CORN IN SPANISH PORT SINCE DRAFT OF 13 FOOT DID NOT ALLOW ENTERING CIVITAVECCHIA. SHIP NOW STARTING DISCHARGING WHEAT IN CIVITAVECCHIA BOUGHT BY ITALIAN IMPORTER (CARAPELLI-FLORENCE). FLORESHTY, UNDER RUSSIAN FLAG DISCHARGED SCRAP IRON ONLY. KRASVAZ CAN NOT BE FOUND. (QUESTION: WAS THAT THE SHIPMENT TO LIBYA?).

ATHENEAN GLORY, GREEK FLAG CHARTERED BY CONTINENTAL DISCHARGED 1,500 LONG TONS DARK NORTHERN SPRING WHEAT IN LA SPEZIA AND 15,750 I.T. OF SAME IN CIVITAVECCHIA.

IMPORTER: AMBROSSIO-NAPLES WHO ALREADY SOLD ON TO PAGNAN.

6. COMMENT: CONFUSION ALL AROUND MIGHT BE CAUSED BY US SHIPPERS SWITCHING CONTRACTS ON NEARBY MEDITERRANEAN POSITIONS AGAINST CONTRACTS LATER SHIPMENTS TO USSR. EMS MAY WANT TO CHECK THIS WITH MAIN SHIPPERS.

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7. WE SHALL CONTINUE EFFORTS TO UNEARTH FURTHER FACTS BUT ON BASIS OUR TODAY'S SURGICAL OPERATION ON WIDE FRONT REPEAT NO REASON TO SUBSTANTIATE SALES BY RUSSIANS OF US WHEAT TO ITALY SUBSIDIZED BY CCC.VOLPE UNQTE RUSH

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